

CHAPTER 3: The Temptation and Fall of Man

"Dangerous Doctrines"

- Salvation by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone
- The Eternal Security of the Believer

3:1

"the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field"

"serpent" = nachash (נָחָשׁ) "upright shining one"

- Implies the serpent may have been an upright creature before the curse

The serpent

- 2 Corinthians 11:3 — the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 — Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light
- Revelation 12:9 — the great dragon... that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan
- Satan's titles: Devil (accuser), Satan (adversary), Lucifer (his name)

Satan's MO:

- Revelation 12:10 — the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night
- 1 Peter 5:8 — your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour
- John 8:44 — He was a murderer from the beginning... he is a liar and the father of it

Satan speaks in only 3 places in Scripture:

- 1) Genesis 3 (to Eve)
- 2) Job 1-2 (to God)
- 3) Matthew 4 / Luke 4 (to Jesus in the wilderness)

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When was the fall?

"Has God indeed said...?"

Step 1: Satan DENIES / QUESTIONS God's Word

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"You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

-Genesis 2:16-17 — “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...

-Satan intentionally phrases his question to make God look petty.

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3:2

"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden... nor shall you touch it, lest you die"

Eve's response reveals three distortions:

-"We may eat" → God said "freely eat" (downplays God's generosity)

-"nor shall you touch it" → God never said this (adds legalism)

-"lest you die" → God said "you shall surely die" (downplays the consequence)

Three errors with God's Word:

-Omitting / leaving out portions

-Adding to it (extra rules, restrictions)

-Twisting / changing the wording

-Deuteronomy 4:2 — You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it.

-Revelation 22:18-19 — warning against adding to or taking from the prophecy

When Satan tempts me to despair

And tells me of the guilt within

Upward I look and see Him there

Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died

My sinful soul is counted free

For God the Just is satisfied

To look on Him and pardon me

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Eve may have learned the command through Adam (command given before her creation)

-Did Adam teach it incorrectly? Text does not say.

Why Eve and not Adam?

-The woman is “the weaker vessel” (1 Pet. 3:7)

-Not intellectually inferior, but by design more tender, compassionate, and compliant, (qualities essential for her role as helper and mother.) As well as more drawn to scriptural things.

-She was designed for the covering and protection of a husband (Eph. 5:25–29; 1 Tim. 2:11–14).

2 Timothy 3:6 NKJV — ...those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women...

-1 Timothy 2:14 NKJV — And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

The very same skepticism that God gave man to help him discern false teaching is also the same quality that often makes men never come to Christ.

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3:4

"You will not surely die."

Step 2: Satan DEFIES God's Word — directly contradicts it

-John 8:44 — He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

3:5

"you will be like God"

Step 3: Satan DEIFIES the person — promises godhood

-Same lie repackaged in cults (e.g., Mormonism: man can become gods)

ISAIAH 14 — FIVE "I WILL" STATEMENTS

-1. Isaiah 14:13 — I will ascend into heaven

-2. Isaiah 14:13 — I will exalt my throne above the stars of God

-3. Isaiah 14:13 — I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north

-4. Isaiah 14:14 — I will ascend above the heights of the clouds

-5. Isaiah 14:14 — I will be like the Most High

Man was already "like" God

Genesis 1:26 — Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

Satan wasn't made in God's image. In his envy he stirs up envy in man. "You are not as much like God as you could be..."

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Envy is cancerous.

Satan's fall may have been triggered by seeing mankind highly esteemed in God's eyes

-Day 6, all creation was "very good" → angels still good at that point
-Satan's rebellion likely shortly after man's creation

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3:6

"good for food... pleasant to the eyes... desirable to make one wise"

-"good for food" = lust of the flesh

-"pleasant to the eyes" = lust of the eyes

-"desirable to make one wise" = pride of life

-1 John 2:16 — For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

All of Satan's temptations fit these three categories

Same three used against Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11):

MATTHEW 4 PARALLEL:

-Stones to bread = lust of the flesh → Jesus responds with the Word

-Pinnacle of the temple = pride of life → Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12 but SKIPS v11b ("to keep you in all your ways") → takes Scripture out of context

-Kingdoms of the world = lust of the eyes → Jesus: "Away with you, Satan!" (cf. James 4:7 — resist the devil and he will flee)

Jesus defeats Satan every time with the Word of God — the same weapon available to us

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The tenth commandment (covetousness) — most downplayed, yet the one commandment someone will break all other nine to fulfill

James 1:14-15 — But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

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Scripture holds Adam, not Eve, as the responsible head:

"As in Adam all die" (1 Cor. 15:22).

-This is the principle of headship

-Not that Adam's guilt is greater, but that as the head of the human race, the sin is reckoned through him (Rom. 5:12–19).

The theology of original sin (Rom. 5:12–19):

-Romans 5:12 NKJV — Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

"That's not fair!"

Romans 5:15 NKJV — But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

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3:7

"the eyes of both of them were opened"

Fig leaves → self-made covering (inadequate)

-Man's response to sin: try to cover it yourself

3:8

"they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day"

God comes gently — not blazing in wrath

-Adam and Eve hide among the trees

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3:9

"Where are you?"

-Omniscient God asks a question

-God does not force Himself on us; He leaves the door open, whispers

How foolish. Hiding from God behind a tree.

Are you hiding from God?

Psalms 139:7-11 — Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall

lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

Even in their sin, God sought them. Even as they ran from Him and hid, He bid them to come.

We should all ponder that question. "Where are you?"

Abraham was living in Ur, following after other gods, and God sought Him.

-Jacob was on the run because he had ripped off his blind dad and his brother, yet God appeared to Him at Bethel.

-Moses was living in the desert 40 years because he was a fugitive for killing an Egyptian, yet God spoke through the burning bush.

God is always chasing rebellious people down.

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3:10

"and I was afraid"

F.O. of fear.

-Fear is a result of the fall.

-Fear and anxiety are two sides of the same coin.

-They are both sin, and the consequences of the fall.

IF we truly understand what sin is and how salvation works, this makes sense.

Sin:

-1) Anything apart from God's holy character; anything against His commands.

-2) Not God's will for us.

-3) Not something that will be in heaven

-4) Part of the fall. A disease passed on through Adam to all men.

-5) Something we are in the process of God setting us free from.

1) Since God commands us to not fear or be anxious, then it is a sin by default.

2) God calls things sin because they are bad for us and not His desire for us.

-God doesn't want you to fear or be anxious.

3) It is good to remember that heaven will be sin free, and thus fear and anxiety free.

4) We all have the disease of sin and it affects us all differently.

-If there was no sin in the world, there would be no fears or anxiety.

5) We are all being sanctified. (Slowly set free from the power of sin in our lives.)
-We should never be surprised if there is sin in our life that God is still working out.

Romans 7:15 — For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

-Romans 7:17 — But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Romans 8:1 — There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus

What did Paul struggle with?

Acts 18:9 — Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent”

Bonus 6) If fear/anxiety isn't a sin, then it is your problem.

-If it IS a sin, then it is something Jesus has paid for and He died to free you from it.

-Even if you struggle, you're already forgiven.

-And now you can believe in God's promises that He will set you free.

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“I was naked”

NEWS FLASH:

Hebrews 4:13 — And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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3:11

“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree...?”

God's tone: gentle, drawing out confession — not angry interrogation

“Who told you?”

-Adam had to confess that he was receiving truth from a source other than God.

What is good?

-What is honorable?

-What is noble?

-What is pure?

-What is worthwhile?

-What is desirable?

-What is normal?
-WHO TOLD YOU?

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3:12

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree"

Adam blames Eve and God

-1 Timothy 2:13-14 — For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Adam was NOT deceived — he knew what he was doing

-He chose to obey Eve over God

Eve was genuinely deceived

James 1:13-15 — Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"... each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Sin is never someone else's fault — we give in to our own desires

-1 John 1:9 — If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God's desired response: honest confession, not blame-shifting

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3:13

"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Curse

3:14

"On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust"

"serpent" = nachash — in v1 may imply an upright creature → now cursed to crawl

-Serpents = a permanent reminder of the fall (like the rainbow is a reminder of the flood)

Not "cursed more than all other animals"

- (as if all were cursed and the serpent most),
-“cursed out of all cattle and out of every beast of the field”

“Dust you shall eat”

-He “bit the dust”

“To lick the dust” meant to be vanquished, brought to the lowest level (Ps. 72:9; Isa. 49:23; Mic. 7:17).

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3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed"

PROTOEVANGELIUM — “first gospel” in Latin

-First prophecy and promise of the Savior

"her Seed" — "seed" = zera (זֶרַע), normally comes from the man

-“Her seed” implies a child without an earthly father → virgin conception

"He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

-“bruise” = shuf (שׁוּף) — crush

-Christ’s heel bruised (suffering, death on the cross)

-Satan’s head crushed (total, final defeat)

Satan throughout history attacks the Messianic genealogy:

-Cain kills Abel (ch4)

-Corruption of all flesh before the flood (ch6)

-Haman’s plot against the Jews (Esther)

-Herod’s slaughter of infants (Matthew 2)

-Satan doesn’t know the future — he only knows a child from the woman will destroy him, so he attacks all offspring

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman”

-No better way to make a woman angry than to threaten her kids...

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3:16

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children"

Birth pangs as prophetic picture:

-Romans 8:22 — For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

-Matthew 24:8 — All these are the beginning of sorrows.

-"sorrows" = ođin (ὠδίν) — specifically the pain of childbirth

-Wars, famines, earthquakes = birth pangs increasing in frequency and intensity before deliverance

"Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you"

-"desire" = teshuqah (תְּשׁוּקָה)

-Only 3 uses in OT

-Gen 4:7 parallel: sin desires to rule over you

-Connotation: desiring to rule, to have power over

Enmity was placed between the serpent and the woman (v. 15); enmity was placed between the man and the ground (v. 17); and here enmity is placed between the wife and her husband.

The Hebrew hints that women will have an innate rebellious heart toward their husband, and that the husband would be domineering toward her. Both sinful flaws according to the curse.

māshal (מָשַׁל) — rule, govern, have dominion.

The headship that was designed to be beautiful and enjoyable was now tainted by sin. We must now endeavor to fight against the grain of our sin nature and aim for God's original design.

Ephesians 5:22–33 — The reversal through the Spirit.

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3:17-19

"Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it'"

Adam's sin was obeying his wife over obeying God.

-This is a sin that neither man nor woman should ever commit.

"Cursed is the ground for your sake"

As the woman is cursed in her sphere (the home), the man is cursed in his sphere (the field/workplace).

"for your sake" → man needs work; idleness leads to sin

-Thorns and thistles

-By sweat → labor to eat

"for dust you are, and to dust you shall return"

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Jesus bore the elements of the curse on the cross:

- Thorns → crown of thorns
- Sweat → sweated drops of blood (Luke 22:44)
- Sorrow → man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)

1k Reversal:

Isaiah 55:13 — Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

-Isaiah 65:25 NKJV — The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food...

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3:20

"Adam called his wife's name Eve"

"Eve" = Chavvah (חַוְּוָה) — "mother of all living"

-Adam believed the Gospel and was saved. -Naming his wife Eve was that application of his faith.

3:21

"the LORD God made tunics of skin and clothed them"

First sacrifice — something died to cover their sin

- Fig leaves (man's covering) replaced by God's provision (animal skin)
- Foreshadows substitutionary atonement
- Likely a lamb
- Adam and Eve probably had never seen death before this moment
- Hebrews 9:22 — without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Substitutionary Atonement:

- God chooses the substitute
- God executes the substitute
- God makes the covering
- God clothes the sinner

The animal pictured the Lamb of God — “slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8).
-The garment pictured the righteousness of Christ imputed to the believer — “clothed with Christ” (Gal. 3:27).
-The shedding of blood pictured the atonement — “without the shedding of blood there is no remission” (Heb. 9:22).

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3:22

"Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil"

God never intended man to know evil

-A parent does not desire their children to know wickedness
-Psalm 101:3 — I will set nothing wicked before my eyes.

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3:23-24

"He drove out the man"

v23: God verbally commands them to leave

-v24: He drives them out — implies resistance ("But Lord...")

"He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword"

-Guards the way to the tree of life

-Hebrew/Rabbinic tradition: Adam would return to the entrance of the garden to bring sacrifices before the cherubim

-This may connect to the two cherubim on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant